

SB154 – Sen. D. Barrett

Senate Fish and Game Committee - Jan. 15, 2009

Comments from Russ Kipp, Dillon-area outfitter.

This bill seems straight forward and should be supported.

One example was the FWP purchase of the Pointdexter Slough property from the Benson family 24 years ago. Under private ownership this property was ranched (hayed/grazed/ditches burnt) but under FWP ownership it was not. It turned into a weed patch and old rough grass, the deer use it to hide but graze on neighboring ranches. Thistle and hounds tongue took over much of the property. A few years back the FWP started spot spraying and some mowing; the property is looking better but has a long way to go.

Another example is the WMA just south of Clark Canyon Reservoir which has had little to no maintenance for years. Dead willows, weeds, rough grass etc.

Senator Barrett drives by both of these examples I have given when she travels to Dillon for supplies. I am sure there are many more though out the state. Private landowners will receive a letter from the county weed board if they do not address their weeds, this bill seems reasonable.